

INNOVATIONS GRANT



INTRODUCTION

The Innovations Grant helps Indiana businesses undertake research, development and implementation projects that promote the economical use of secondary recycled materials or provide source reduction in manufacturing processes. Increased efforts are needed in industry to help Indiana meet its 50% waste-reduction goal.

Grants of up to \$100,000 per project will be made available to successful applicants. Projects will be awarded funding on a competitive basis and must provide at least 50% matching funds. Other key elements include project partnerships and technology transfer. Provisions will be made for confidentiality of proprietary information.

Administration and staffing for the program are performed by the Indiana Department of Commerce, Energy and Recycling Office (ERO). Final funding decisions are made by the Recycling and Energy Development Board (REDB).

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are limited to manufacturing and commercial businesses that operate in the state of Indiana. This does not preclude entities located outside the state from cost sharing and participating in the project, but projects must take place within the state.

Projects must address innovative research and development or demonstration toward near-term commercialization. This includes pilot plants, plant demonstrations or field demonstrations of new products. Only non-hazardous materials are eligible for the program.

Types of innovative projects that may be funded through the program include the following:

- Methods to increase the use of recyclables in the manufacturing processes.
- Development of advanced technologies and processes for production of recycled-content products or feedstocks.
- Testing of the use of recycled materials in civil engineering applications.
- Advanced manufacturing methods to reduce scrap generation (source reduction) or increase recyclability of scrap.

PROJECT EVALUATION

Factors to be considered in evaluating projects include the following:

- **Recycling symbol** **Type and amount of materials to be recycled or reduced.** Emphasis will be given to priority materials and landfill diversion rate.
- **Recycling symbol** **Technical feasibility.** The applicant must identify project need, list project objectives, and describe the significance of objectives toward developing commercial applications of recycling or source reduction.

- ♻️ **Previous development work and readiness to proceed.** The applicant must describe activities leading up to project and expected outcomes if project is successful.
- ♻️ **Participants as appropriate to the project.** This includes local and regional development organizations, industry, universities, government agencies, etc. These partnerships should provide expertise, leadership and financial commitments to the project.
- ♻️ **Organizational structure and experience.** The applicant must provide resumes of company principals and describe the organizational structure.
- ♻️ **Economic development benefits.** The applicant should describe how the project will facilitate economic development in Indiana. This may be demonstrated by the creation of new jobs, increased productivity, cost-of-business savings to the applicant, or support of Indiana business and industry.
- ♻️ **Demonstration projects leading to near-term commercialization are preferred.**

G R A N T P A R A M E T E R S

The maximum grant amount available per project is \$100,000 and shall not exceed one-half of the project's eligible costs. Eligible costs include equipment, personnel, supplies, contractual and other direct costs that are integral to the project. Grants will be made in conjunction with investments by private-sector lending sources, equity from owners or investors, or from other sources. Completion should be planned for a two-year operating period or less, starting from the date of contract execution.

Successful grant recipients will be required to complete quarterly and final reports describing progress toward contracted goals.

A P P L I C A T I O N P R O C E S S

Interested applicants must first submit a pre-proposal letter (no longer than four pages) outlining the project. The following information should be submitted in the letter to the Indiana Department of Commerce, Energy Policy Division. (contact the office for due dates):

- **Brief description of proposed project.**
- **Type and amount of material to be recycled or reduced.** This should include the type of secondary material and its anticipated diversion rate as a result of the project.
- **Technical readiness.** Description of technical feasibility and potential timeframe to commercialization.
- **Project participants.**
- **Project budget.**
- **Project's location and time frame.**

The Energy & Recycling Office will review each proposal letter to ensure compliance with program guidelines and to determine whether the project will be competitive for funding. If approved, applicants will be invited to submit a formal application. Following the submission of a formal application, a complete project evaluation will take place. Final decisions regarding the approval of funding for projects are made by the Recycling and Energy Development Board, which meets on a quarterly basis.

Confidential Information

To the extent feasible and permissible by law, the Indiana Department of Commerce (IDOC) will honor an applicant's request that confidential information submitted to IDOC remain confidential. The IDOC will treat information as confidential only if: (1) the information is in fact protected confidential information such as trade secrets or privileged or confidential commercial or financial information, (2) the information is specifically marked or identified as confidential by the applicant, (3) the information is segregated and placed in a separate appendix to the application, and (4) no disclosure of the information is required by law or judicial order. If the application results in a loan, the honoring of confidentiality of identified data shall not limit IDOC's right to disclose general project information (not proprietary information) and results to the public. Each and every page containing proprietary data must be clearly identified and marked CONFIDENTIAL.

Contact:

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Recycling Market Development Program
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